

Docket No.: HO-P02894US0

Application No. 10/715,897
Amendment dated May 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 21, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Applicants respectfully request that paragraphs, [0102], [0104] and [0105] of the Specification be replaced with the below replacement paragraphs.

[0102] Figure 8 shows a section of a CD, 23 having two consecutive inner annular hydrophilic channels, 24 and 25 which are connected by a radial hydrophilic channel 26 and a channel 27 which contains a hydrophobic area or break A. The outermost annular channel 25 is connected to an annular waste channel 28 by a radial hydrophilic overflow channel 29 having a hydrophobic break or valve Y2 adjacent to the junction with the waste channel 28. The annular channel 25 is also connected via radial channel 32 to two serially arranged chambers 30 and 31, the second of which is in turn connected to the waste channel 28. The annular channels 25 and 28 and the chambers 30 and 31 are connected via channels which contain hydrophobic breaks or valves B, C and D.

[0104] Aqueous reagent for use in carrying out tests is introduced via an inlet 20 into annular channel 25 and feeds by capillary action into the radial channels (32 and 29) until it reaches the hydrophobic breaks or valves B and Y2. The CD is then spun at a first rotation speed so that liquid passes through Y2 into the waste channel 28 and then through B until it reaches C. Cells are allowed to grow in chamber 30 and when cell culture has reached the required level the disc is spun again at a second, higher rotation speed so that the contents of chamber 30 are transferred into chamber 31, but prevented from travelling further by the hydrophobic breaks or valves D. An analysis, or further manipulation, can then be carried out in chamber 31 after which the CD is spun at a third still higher, rotation speed so that the content of chamber 31 passes across D into the waste channel 28.

[0105] A rinse solution can then be introduced into the annular channel 24 via an inlet 10. The CD is spun again so that the solution passes through the hydrophilic breaks or valves Y and A, into the chambers 30 and 31 and then into the waste channel.